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**Written Testimony for the Education Committee**

**By**

**Judith B. Greiman, President**

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), I am submitting testimony in support of **Raised Bill 5489, AAC Secondary School Reform**.

This bill would enhance high school graduation requirements in an effort to ensure that high school graduates are college and career ready. We support changes in Connecticut's high school graduation requirements.

Across the country, state are grappling with students who do not perform well in high school, students who enter college in need of serious remediation in core areas and/or students who are not able to matriculate to college due to poor K-12 preparation. Connecticut faces similar problems, particularly in our urban schools.

Because our sole natural resource is our well-educated citizenry and because our population in Connecticut is not expected to grow in the coming years, we must be deliberate in how we address the preparation gap. We must set high standards for our students, their schools and families and provide the tools necessary for success. As noted in *Education Week in 2007*, "A deep pool of research suggests that students' chances of making it to college, and succeeding there, increase significantly if they take challenging high school courses."

Other states have been bold in their responses to this challenge. Texas has enacted a law that makes a college-prep curriculum the default for all high school students. This has pushed change down to the middle and elementary levels. Arkansas has developed the "Smart Core" default college-prep curriculum. Indiana has also taken a lead in this area with positive results. Connecticut, known for its highly educated workforce, should not lag behind other states.